Heavy school bags

1345. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that school students are required to carry bags of 10 kg. at the risk of suffering from spinal deformity;

(b) whether Government are also aware that abnormal posture of the spine takes arched shape and in due course causes chronic pain in the lower spinal region;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to reduce the weight of the bag of school children; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A news item published in The Times of India dated April 22, 2006 referred to a study undertaken by a private hospital of Delhi of children of 10-15 years age group studying in a few school of Delhi which revealed that 38.4% children have lower back pain. However, the report concluded that factors associated with the low back pain include age, height, weight, percentage body weight carried, emotional problems, etc.

(c) and (d) With a view to reducing curricular burden, the Government has taken following steps:

(i) National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005 and new textbooks based thereon have been prepared keeping into account the principles underlined in the Yash Pal Committee report "Learning Without Burden", that include reduction in weight of school bags through reforms in the design of curriculum, syllable, text-books and examination system. NCF-2005 has been circulated to all State Governments for appropriate action.

(ii) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also issued guidelines to its all affiliated schools to reduce burden of school

bag on children, such as students of Classes I & II to leave text-books in the school itself, no homework to students of classes I & II and giving activity based work instead of homework to students of classes III to V. Schools affiliated to CBSE have been instructed to restrict number of textbooks to the prescribed level and to set up class libraries.

Institute of higher education at Chennai

1346. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an institute of higher education at national level at Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Arbitrary fee structure in private schools

†1347. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of private schools are rising all over the country;

(b) whether these schools are free to absolutely prescribe and charge fee arbitrarily;

(c) whether Government propose to prescribe any norms regarding fee in order to put a check on arbitrariness of private schools; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.